

REMARKS

Proposed amendments to Fig. 19 are enclosed to overcome the objection of the Examiner.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), in view of Schilling et al., Electronic Circuits: Discrete and Integrated, 1979, pages 560-615.

Claims 1-4 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 5-8 have been substituted for claims 1-4 since claims 1-4 as amended in the Preliminary Amendment previously filed did not properly show all amendments made from the originally filed application. Applicant regrets any inconvenience or confusion caused.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been addressed in substituted new claims 5-8.

The Examiner disagrees, in his Remarks, (Office Action, page 3, paragraph 5.1), with the statement by Applicant in the Preliminary Amendment filed herein on December 30, 2003 that "the present invention relates to a method to generate the input pattern set in the scan cells as a test pattern for the internal circuit of the LSI, the test pattern preventing a noise problem", (page 5, third paragraph), since the above argument allegedly is not incorporated into the claim language.

Independent claims 5, 6, and 8 clarify that a test pattern is outputted by allowing only selected output buffers to change output values, thereby insuring that the total noise value is at most equal to an allowable noise value upon performing the output of the test pattern.

In contrast, in the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), the input pattern set in the scan cells as a test pattern for the internal circuit of the LSI is a fixed pattern, and the output buffers sequentially receive and output the data without simultaneously changing among the

output buffers by the delay elements inserted between the scan cells and the output buffers. Schilling et al. teaches only noise margin and fan-out requirements on logic gates, these requirements being for the internal circuit (a logical circuit) of the LSI, and Schilling et al. does not teach noise values generated by output buffers.

CLOSING

In view of the above amendments, it is believed that independent claims 5, 6, and 8 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Amended Fig. 19

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Please find enclosed a copy of Fig. 19, as originally filed, with proposed amendments in red for the approval of the Examiner.